

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OPIC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7076

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJ: INTERVIEW OF MRS GANDHI ON U.S. TELEVISION

SUMMARY: THE INDIAN PRESS JULY 12 FEATURES A SAMACHAR SUMMARY OF A TELEVISION INTERVIEW GRANTED TO AN AMERICAN GROUP BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND REPORTEDLY TELECAST IN NEW YORK THE PREVIOUS DAY. ON THE ASSUMPTION THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE A TRANSCRIPT OF THE INTERVIEW, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MRS GANDHI'S COMMENTS AS REPORTED BY SAMACHAR ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW. AN OFFICER AT THE EXTERNAL PUBLICITY DIVISION, MEA, INFORMS US THAT THE INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED BY A NEW YORK FREE-LANCE OUTFIT KIPNES ASSOCIATES APRIL 30 AND IS ONLY NOW BEING TELECAST ON INDEPENDENT STATIONS IN U.S. CITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS-THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SHE WOULD LIKE BILATERAL RELATIONS "TO HAVE DEEPER ROOTS". REFERRING IN GENERAL TO PAST "MISUNDERSTANDINGS", SHE  
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SAID "FRIENDSHIP IS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD GO DEEPER

THAN ANYTHING THAT AHPPENS TEMPORARILY." MOREOVER  
"I DON'T WANT THE FRIENDSHIP...TO BE BASED ON AID EITHER-  
EVERY COUNTRY HAS TO GIVE AND TAKE IN SOME WAY OR THE  
OTHER". THE PRIME MINISTER INDICATED THAT ONE "MISUNDER-  
STANDING" AROSE IN THE PAST BECAUSE "THE U.S. ORIGINALLY  
DID NOT BELIEVE IN OUR HEAVY INDUSTRIES WHICH WE FELT WERE  
ESSENTIAL", SUCH AS STEEL. ALTHOUGH INITIAL TALKS ON  
DEVELOPING INDIA'S STEEL CAPACITY WERE HELD WITH SOME  
U.S. COMPANY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID "THEY BACKED OUT  
AND THEN THE SOVIET UNION CAME IN AND HELPED US IN BHILAI  
AND IN BOKARO." MRS GANDHI ADDED HOWEVER THAT "WE NEVER  
FELT THAT OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH THEM (THE SOVIETS) OR ANYBODY  
ELSE SHOULD COME IN THE WAY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE U.S. OR  
ANY OTHER COUNTRY".

2. ON U.S. ASSISTANCE AND INVESTMENT IN INDIA-  
RESPONDING TO A QUESTION, THE  
PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT INDIA IS NOT AT PRESENT  
RECEIVING AID AS SUCH FROM THE U.S. BUT RATHER CREDIT.  
MOREOVER, INDIA IS CURRENTLY PAYING CASH FOR U.S. GRAIN.  
"OUR EMPHASIS HAS NOT BEEN ON AID AND OUR PREFERENCE HAS  
BEEN FOR HELP WHICH WILL MAKE US MORE SELF-RELIANT."  
REFERRING TO EARLIER U.S. AID, SHE SAID "IT HELPS US IN  
SOME AREAS BUT IT PROVES VERY EXPENSIVE TO US IN OTHER  
AREAS".CONTINUING, SHE SAID"WE HAVE OUTLINED VERY CLEARLY IN  
WHAT AREAS WE WANT THIS HELP". MRS GANDHI HAD PRAISE  
FOR THE U.S. SITE EXPERIMENT AND NOTED THAT VILLAGERS  
PREVIOUSLY DISPOSED AGAINST SENDING THEIR DAUGHTERS TO  
SCHOOL WATCHED THE PROGRAMS AND THEM BECAME INTERESTED IN  
THEIR CHILDRENS' EDUCATION. SITE DEMONSTRATED "HOW  
SOME OF THE VERY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CAN GO IMMEDIATELY  
TO THE HEART OF A VERY OLD PROBLEM".

3. ON NUCLEAR ENERGY-REPLYING TO A QUESTION, MRS GANDHI  
STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR INDIA.  
SHE SAID THAT WHEN IT DID NOT RAIN THE HYDROELECTRIC  
PROJECTS WERE NOT OF MUCH USE. "WE ARE ALSO USING NUCLEAR  
SCIENCE FOR MEDICINE AND PRESERVATION OF FOOD".

4. ON THE EMERGENCY AND ELECTIONS-THE PRIME MINISTER  
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SAID SHE WOULD GET AN "OVERWHELMING MAJORITY" OF THERE  
WERE IMMEDIATE ELECTIONS BUT OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO HER  
WAS THAT "THE COUNTRY SHOULD BE SET FACING A DIRECTION  
AND MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION WHICH NOBODY CAN CHANGE".  
THE PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT ELECTIONS WERE NOT  
NECESSARILY DEPENDENT ON WHETHER OR NOT AN EMERGENCY  
EXISTED, SINCE ELECTIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST DURING AN  
EMERGENCY.

HOWEVER, "IF YOU WANT TO KNOW A DATE FOR ELECTIONS, I AM  
AFRAID I HAVE TO TELL IT TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE FIRST."  
JUSTIFYING THE EMERGENCY, THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT  
PRE-EMERGENCY INDIA HAD BEEN FACED WITH THE SAME DANGERS  
WHICH CONFRONTED THE U.S. IN ITS EARLY YEARS, SECESSION  
AND ANARCHY. CITING THE SITUATION IN GUJARAT, BIHAR, AND  
ELSEWHERE BEFORE THE DECLARATION OF THE EMERGENCY, SHE  
EXPLAINED THAT "THIS THREAT IN JUNE (1975) WAS NOT JUST  
IN ONE STATE OR ANOTHER BUT TO THE CENTER, AND IN A COUNTRY  
WITH THE SIZE AND DIVERSITY OF INDIA, UNLESS THE CENTER  
HOLDS, EVERYTHING CAN JUST DISINTEGRATE".  
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